

NORTH CAROLINA



Lords Proprietor Seal



Albemarle Seal 1665-1730

North Carolina's State Symbols

Like every other state in the U.S. and nearly every country in the world, North Carolina's state government has selected a wide array of official state symbols. Some of these symbols, such as the state seal, are historic relics that played an important legal role earlier in the state's history. Others are symbols chosen by the N.C. General Assembly to promote important North Carolina products, natural resources and human achievements. Some symbols are literally larger than life, particularly such historic state buildings as the North Carolina Capitol, the N.C. Legislative Building and the Executive Mansion, the official residence of North Carolina's governor. All North Carolina symbols share one important function, namely reminding North Carolinians and the rest of the world of our state's cultural character, natural wonders and rich history.

The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina

The state seal is probably the oldest official state symbol. A seal for important documents was used before a state government was organized in North Carolina. During the colonial period North Carolina used four different seals in succession. Since independence, the state has used six different versions of the seal.

STATE SYMBOLS



Provincial Seal 1730-1767

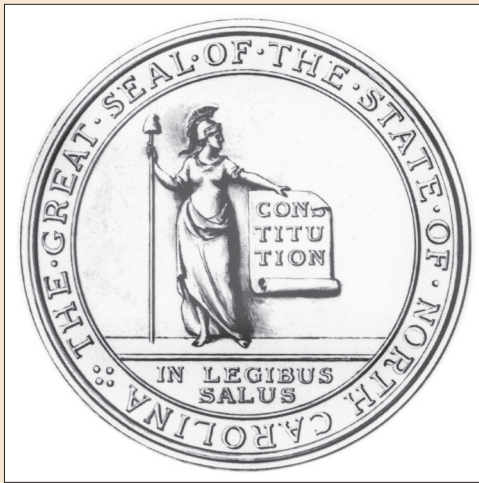


Provincial Seal 1767-1776

Shortly after King Charles II issued the Charter of 1663 to the Lords Proprietor, a seal was adopted to use in conjunction with their newly-acquired domains in America. No official description has been found of the seal but it can be seen in the British Public Record Office in London. The seal had two sides and was 3 and 3/8 inches in diameter. The impression was made by bonding two wax cakes together with tape before being impressed. The finished impression was about a quarter-inch thick. This seal was used on all official papers of the Lords Proprietor of Carolina, which at the time included all of the territory inside the current borders of both North Carolina and South Carolina.

When the Government of Albemarle was organized in 1665, it adopted for a seal the reverse side of the seal of the Lords Proprietor. Between the coat of arms, the word A-L-B-E-M-A-R-L-E was fixed in capitals beginning with the letter "A" between the Craven arms and those of Lord John Berkeley. The Albemarle seal was small, only 1 and 7/16 inches in diameter, and had only one face. The seal was usually impressed on red wax, but was occasionally imprinted on a wafer stuck to the instrument with soft wax. The government for Albemarle County was the first to use the seal. As the colony grew, it became the seal of the entire Province of North Carolina. It continued in use until just after the purchase of North Carolina by the crown.

During the troublesome times of the Cary Rebellion, the Albemarle seal was not used. Instead, Cary used his family arms as a seal for official papers. William Glover used his private seal during his presidency as well.



State Seal 1779-1794



State Seal 1794-1836

When North Carolina became a royal colony in 1729, the old “Albemarle” seal was no longer applicable. On February 3, 1730, the Board of Trade recommended that the king order a public seal for the Province of North Carolina. Later that same month, the king approved the recommendations and ordered that a new seal be prepared for the governor of North Carolina. On March 25, the Board of Trade presented the king with a draft of the proposed seal for his consideration. The king approved the proposed new seal on April 10 with one minor change: “Georgius Secundus” was to be substituted for the original “Geo. II.” The chief engraver of seals, Rollos, was ordered to “engrave a silver Seal according to said draught ...”

The arrival of the new seal in North Carolina was delayed; so when the council met in Edenton on March 30, 1731, the old seal of the colony was ordered to be used until the new seal arrived. The new seal arrived in late April and the messenger fetching the seal from Cape Fear was paid £10 for his journey. The impression of the new seal was made by placing two cakes or layers of wax together, then interlacing ribbon or tape with the attached seal between the wax cakes. It was customary to put a piece of paper on the outside of three cakes before they were impressed. The complete seal was 4 and 3/8 inches in diameter and from 1/2 to 5/8 inches thick and weighed about 5 and 1/2 ounces.

At a meeting of the council held in New Bern on December 14, 1767, Governor Tryon produced a new great seal of the province with His Majesty’s Royal Warrant from the Court of St. James bearing the date of the 9th day of July, 1767. The old seal was returned to his Majesty’s Council office at Whitehall in England. Accompanying



State Seal 1836 - 1893



State Seal 1893 - 1971

the warrant was a description of the new seal with instructions that the seal be used to seal all patents and grants of lands and all public instruments passed in the king's name for service within the province. It was 4 inches in diameter, 1/2 to 5/8 inches thick, and weighed 4 and 1/2 ounces.

Sometimes a smaller seal than the Great Seal was used on commissions and grants, such as a small heart-shaped seal or a seal in the shape of an ellipse. These impressions were evidently made by putting the wax far enough under the edge of the Great Seal to take the impression of the crown. The royal governors also used their private seals on commissions and grants.

Lord Granville, after the sale of the colony by the Lords Proprietor, retained his right to issue land grants. He used his private seal on the grants he issued. The last reference found to the colonial seal is in a letter from Governor Martin to the Earl of Hillsborough in November, 1771, in which he recounts the broken condition of the seal. He states the seal had been repaired and though "awkwardly mended... [it was] in such manner as to answer all purposes."

Following independence, Section XVII of the new constitution adopted at Halifax on December 18, 1776, provided "That there shall be a Seal of this State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used by him as occasion may require; and shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, and be affixed to all grants and commissions." When a new constitution was adopted in 1868, Article III, Section 16, provided for "...a seal of the State, which shall be kept by the Governor, and used



State Seal 1971 - 1984



State Seal 1984 - present

by him, as occasion may require, and shall be called The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina.” It also provided for the Secretary of State to countersign with the governor. When the people of North Carolina ratified the current state constitution in 1970, Article III, Section 10, contained provisions for “The Great Seal of the State of North Carolina.” However, the wording which authorized the Secretary of State to countersign documents was removed.

On December 22, 1776, the Provincial Congress at Halifax appointed William Hooper, Joseph Hewes and Thomas Burke as commissioners to procure a seal for the state. There is no record, however, that the commission ever made a report. The congress authorized the governor to use his “private seal at arms” until a great seal for the state was procured. A bill to do just that became law on May 2, 1778. The legislation appointed William Tisdale, Esq., to cut and engrave a seal for the state. On Sunday, November 7, 1779, the Senate granted Tisdale £150 to make the seal. The seal procured under this act was used until 1794. The actual size of the seal was 3 inches in diameter and 1/4 inch thick. It was made by putting two cakes of wax together with paper wafers on the outside and pressing them between the dies, thus forming the obverse and reverse sides of the seal. An official description of this seal cannot be found, but many of the seals still in existence are in an almost perfect state of preservation.

In January, 1792, the General Assembly authorized a new state seal, requiring that it be prepared with only one side. Colonel Abisha Thomas, an agent of North

Carolina commissioned by Governor Martin, was in Philadelphia to settle the state's Revolutionary War claims against the federal government. Martin sent a design to Colonel Thomas for a new seal for the state; however, after suggestions by Dr. Hugh Williamson and Senator Samuel Johnston, this sketch was disregarded and a new one submitted. This new sketch, with some modification, was finally accepted by Governor Spaight, and Colonel Thomas had the seal made accordingly.

The seal press for the old seal had proved unwieldy due to its two-sided nature and large diameter. Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight in a letter to Colonel Abisha Thomas in February, 1793, wrote: "Let the screws by which the impression is to be made be as portable as possible so as it may be adapted to our present itinerant government. The one now in use by which the Great Seal is at present made is so large and unwieldy as to be carried only in a cart or wagon and of course has become stationary at the Secretary's office which makes it very convenient." The seal was cut some time during the summer of 1793. Colonel Thomas brought it home with him in time for the meeting of the legislature in November, 1793, at which session it was "approved." The screw to the seal was 2 and 1/2 inches in diameter and was used until around 1835.

In the winter of 1834-35 the legislature enacted legislation authorizing the governor to procure a new seal. The preamble to the act stated that the old seal had been used since the first day of March, 1793. A new seal, which was very similar to its predecessor, was adopted in 1835 and continued in use until 1893. In 1868, the legislature authorized the governor to procure a new replacement seal and required him to do so whenever the old one was lost or so worn or defaced that it was unfit for use. In 1883, Colonel S. McD. Tate introduced a bill that described in more detail what the seal should be like. In 1893, Jacob Battle introduced a bill to add the state motto, "Esse Quam Videri," to the foot of the state's coat of arms and the words "May 20, 1775," to the top of the coat-of-arms. By the late 19th and early 20th century, the ship that appeared in the background of the early seals had disappeared. The North Carolina mountains formed the only backdrop on the seal.

The 1971 General Assembly, in an effort to "provide a standard for the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina," passed the following act amending the General Statutes provision relative to the State Seal:

The Governor shall procure of the State a Seal, which shall be called the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina, and shall be two and one-quarter inches in diameter, and its design shall be a representation of the figures of Liberty and Plenty, looking toward each other, but not more than half-fronting each other and otherwise disposed as follows: Liberty, the first figure, standing, her pole with cap on it in her

left hand and a scroll with the word "Constitution" inscribed thereon in her right hand. Plenty, the second figure, sitting down, her right arm half extended toward Liberty, three heads of grain in her right hand, and in her left, the small end of her horn, the mouth of which is resting at her feet, and the contents of the horn rolling out.

The background on the seal shall contain a depiction of mountains running from left to right to the middle of the seal. A side view of a three-masted ship shall be located on the ocean and to the right of Plenty. The date "May 20, 1775" shall appear within the seal and across the top of the seal and the words "esse quam videri" shall appear at the bottom around the perimeter. No other words, figures or other embellishments shall appear on the seal.

It shall be the duty of the Governor to file in the office of the Secretary of State an impression of the great seal, certified to under his hand and attested to by the Secretary of State, which impression so certified the Secretary of State shall carefully preserve among the records of this Office.

The late Julian R. Allsbrook, who served in the North Carolina Senate for many years, felt that the adoption date of the Halifax Resolves ought to be commemorated on the state seal as it was already on the state flag. This was to "serve as a constant reminder of the people of this state's commitment to liberty." Legislation adding the date "April 12, 1776" to the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina was ratified May 2, 1983, with an effective date of January 1, 1984. Chapter 257 of the 1983 Session Laws of North Carolina included provisions that would not invalidate any Great Seal of the State of North Carolina in use or on display. Instead replacement could occur as the need arose.



North Carolina State Flag

Legislative records indicate that an official state flag for North Carolina was not established or recognized until 1861. The constitutional convention of 1861, which passed the ordinance of secession, adopted a state flag. On May 20, 1861, the day the secession resolution was adopted, Col. John D. Whitford, a member of the convention from Craven County, introduced an ordinance to create a state flag. The ordinance specified that the flag should contain a blue field with a white V on it and a star encircled by the words, “Surgit astrum, May 20, 1775.”

Colonel Whitford chaired the committee to which this ordinance was referred. William Jarl Browne, a Raleigh artist, prepared and submitted a model to the committee and the convention approved Browne’s design on June 22, 1861. The Browne model differed significantly from the original design proposed by Colonel Whitford. The law creating the new state flag included this description:

The Flag of North Carolina shall consist of a red field with a white star in the centre, and with the inscription, above the star, in a semi-circular form, of “May 20th, 1775,” and below the star, in a semi-circular form, of “May 20th, 1861.” That there shall be two bars of equal width, and the length of the field shall be equal to the bar, the width of the field being equal to both bars: the first bar shall be blue, and second shall be white: and the length of the flag shall be one-third more than its width. [Ratified the 22nd day of June, 1861]

This state flag was issued to North Carolina regiments of state troops during the summer of 1861 and borne by them throughout the war. It was the only flag, except the national and Confederate colors, used by North Carolina troops during the Civil War. This version of the flag existed until 1885, when the General Assembly adopted a new design. General Johnstone Jones introduced the bill to redesign the state flag on February 5, 1885. The measure passed its final reading one month later after little debate:

An Act to Establish a State Flag

It is interesting to examine the significance of the dates found on the flag. The first date, "May 20, 1775," refers to the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, although the document's authenticity was in question at the time (and remains so). The second date appearing on the state flag of 1861, "May 20th, 1861," commemorated North Carolina's secession from the Union. When a new flag was adopted in 1885, this date was replaced with "April 12th, 1776" to commemorate the Halifax Resolves, which had placed North Carolina in the very front ranks of those colonies fighting for independence from Britain.

From 1885 to 1991, there was no change in our state flag. The 1991 General Assembly made minor changes to the flag, changing the length of the flag from 1/3 of its width to 1/2. It also deleted the commas before the year dates. Public use of the flag has become more common. A 1907 General Assembly act requires state flag displays at all state institutions, public buildings and court houses.



The Cardinal – State Bird

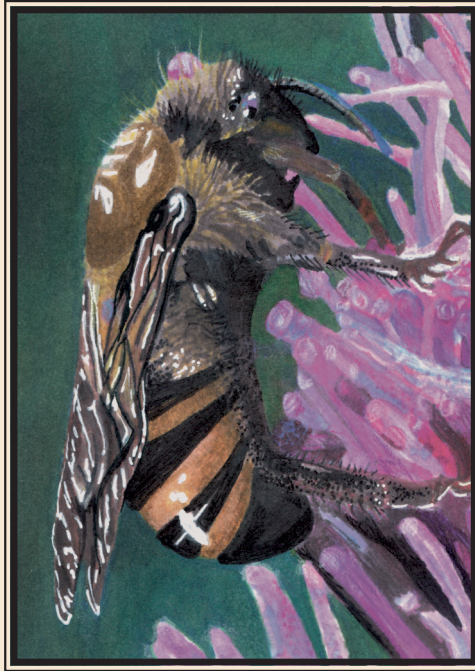
The cardinal was selected by popular choice as North Carolina’s official State Bird on March 4, 1943 (Session Laws, 1943 c. 595; G.S. 145-2). Also known as the winter redbird, the cardinal is a year-round resident of North Carolina and is one of the most common birds that inhabit our state’s gardens, meadows and woodlands. The male cardinal is red all over, except for the area of its throat and the region around its bill, which is black. It is about the size of a catbird, only with a longer tail. The head is conspicuously crested and the large stout bill is red. The female cardinal is much duller in color with the red confined mostly to the crest, wings and tail. There are no seasonal changes in the cardinal’s plumage.

Male and female cardinals alike are renowned as song birds. The cardinal’s nest tends to be a rather untidy affair built of weed stems, grass and similar materials in low shrubs, small trees or bunches of briars, generally not over four feet above the ground. Cardinals in North Carolina typically set three eggs each spring. Further north, cardinals tend to set four eggs in spring. Seeds are the mainstay of the cardinal’s diet, but it will also eat small fruits and insects.



The Dogwood – State Flower

The General Assembly of 1941 designated the dogwood as the State Flower (Public Laws, 1941, c. 289; G.S. 145-1). The dogwood is one of the most prevalent trees in our state and can be found in all parts of the state from the mountains to the coast. Its blossoms, which appear in early spring and continue on into summer, are most often found in white, although shades of pink (red) are not uncommon.



The Honey Bee – State Insect

The General Assembly of 1973 designated the industrious honey bee as the official State Insect (Session Laws, 1973, c. 55). This industrious creature is responsible for the annual production of more than \$1.8 million worth of honey in the state. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture estimates that, in 2012, North Carolina had 13,000 honey-producing bee colonies maintained by apiculturists throughout the state. The department also estimates that each colony produced an average of 39 lbs. of honey that year, a statewide honey output estimated for the year at 507,000 lbs. However, the greatest value of honey bees is their role in the growing cycle as a major contributor to the pollination of North Carolina crops. According to the NC State University Department of Entomology, honey bees were found to be directly responsible for pollination of nearly 70-percent of fruit and vegetable crops in North Carolina as of 2007.



The Pine – State Tree

The pine tree was officially designated as the State Tree by the General Assembly of 1963. (Session Laws, 1963, c.41) The pine is the most common tree found in North Carolina, as well as the most important one in the history of our state. During the colonial and early statehood periods, the state's economy centered on products derived from the pines that grew throughout North Carolina. Many of the crucial naval stores — resin, turpentine and timber — needed by British and American merchant mariners and the navies of both nations came from North Carolina. North Carolina remains a major cultivator of pine trees and producer of pine tree products, particularly in the building industry. North Carolina ranks second in the nation, behind only Oregon, in production of Christmas trees and has been chosen to provide the Christmas trees for the White House 12 times. The North Carolina Department of Agriculture estimates that the state's commercial evergreen growers sold more than \$75 million worth of Christmas trees in 2012. Most of the state's Christmas trees are raised in Ashe, Avery, Alleghany, Watauga and Jackson counties in the North Carolina mountains.



The Gray Squirrel – State Mammal

The General Assembly of 1969 designated the gray squirrel as the official State Mammal (Session Laws, 1969. c. 1207; G.S. 145-5). The gray squirrel is a common inhabitant of most areas of North Carolina from “the swamps of eastern North Carolina to the upland hardwood forests of the piedmont and western counties. This tree-dwelling rodent thrives equally well in an “untouched wilderness” environment and in urban areas and suburbs. To the delight of hikers and park dwellers alike, this furry creature is extremely active during the day and, like most humans, sleeps at night. In its favorite habitat - the evergreen coniferous forest - the gray squirrel is much larger than other species of squirrels, usually driving away the red squirrel (*Tamiascus*) whenever the two species meet. The gray squirrel is not a picky eater. During the fall and winter months, it survives on a diet of hardwoods, with acorns providing most of its carbohydrates and proteins. In the spring and summer, its diet consists of “new growth and fruits” supplemented by early corn, peanuts, and the occasional insect. Many squirrels in cities supplement their natural diet with raids on bird feeders.

State Toast

The following toast was officially adopted as the State Toast of North Carolina by the General Assembly of 1957 (Session Laws, 1957, c.777):

Here's to the land of the long leaf pine,
 The summer land where the sun doth shine,
 Where the weak grow strong and the strong grow great,
 Here's to "Down Home," the Old North State!
 Here's to the land of the cotton bloom white,
 Where the scuppernong perfumes the breeze at night,
 Where the soft southern moss and jessamine mate,
 'Neath the murmuring pines of the Old North State!
 Here's to the land where the galax grows,
 Where the rhododendron's rosette glows,
 Where soars Mount Mitchell's summit great,
 In the "Land of the Sky," in the Old North State!
 Here's to the land where maidens are fair,
 Where friends are true and cold hearts rare,
 The near land , the dear land, whatever fate
 The blest land, the best land, the Old North State!

State Motto

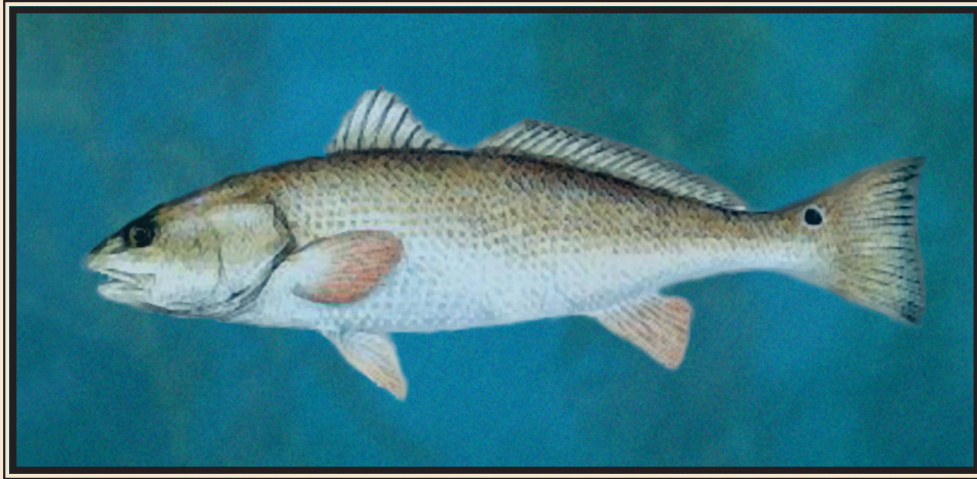
The General Assembly of 1893 (Chapter 145) adopted the words "Esse Quam Videri" as the state's official motto. The legislators directed that these words, along with the date "20 May, 1775," be placed with North Carolina's coat of arms upon the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina. "Esse Quam Videri" means "to be rather than to seem." Nearly every U.S. state has adopted a motto, generally in Latin. North Carolina's motto is quoted from Cicero's essay on friendship (Cicero, de Amicitia, Chapter 26). Until the 1893 act, North Carolina had no motto. It was one of the few states which did not have a motto and the only one of the original thirteen without one.



The Emerald – State Precious Stone

The General Assembly of 1973 designated the emerald as the official State Precious Stone (Session Laws, 1973, c. 136). A greater variety of minerals, more than 300, have been found in North Carolina than in any other state. These minerals include some of the most valuable and unique gems in the world.

The largest emerald ever found in North Carolina was 1,438 carats and was found at Hiddenite, near Statesville. The Carolina Emerald, now owned by Tiffany & Company of New York, was also found at Hiddenite in 1970. When cut to 13.14 carats, the stone was valued at the time at \$100,000 and became the largest and finest cut emerald on this continent.



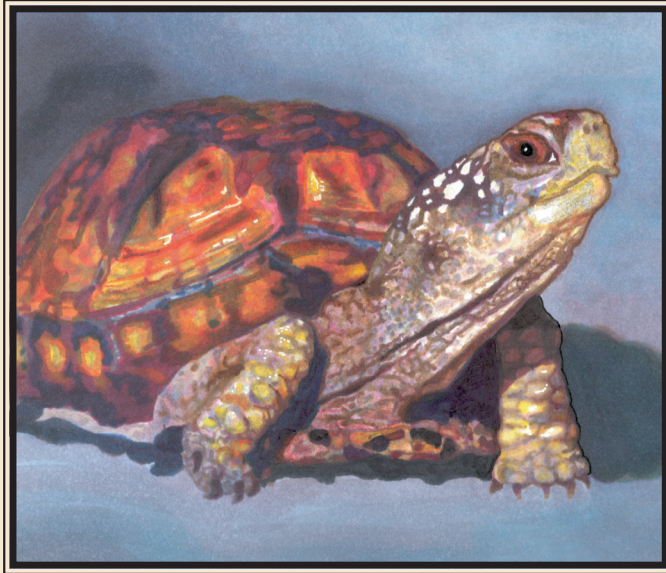
The Channel Bass – State Salt Water Fish

The General Assembly of 1971 designated the Channel Bass (Red Drum) as the official State Salt Water Fish (Session laws, 1971, c.274; G.S. 145-6). Channel bass can usually be found in large numbers along the Tar Heel coastal waters. The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries lists the current state saltwater record and world all-tackle record for a red drum as a 94-lb. specimen caught on Hatteras Island in 1984. Other channel bass taken off the North Carolina coast have weighed up to 75 pounds, although most large catches average between 30 and 40 pounds. North Carolina currently limits sport anglers to no more than one channel bass longer than 18 inches per day and none over 27 inches. The state does not permit sales of channel bass over 27 inches. Federal law currently prohibits fishing for channel bass any further out than three miles from the coast.



The Scotch Bonnet – State Shell

The General Assembly of 1965 designated the Scotch Bonnet (pronounced bone-AY) as the official State Shell (Session Laws, 1965, c. 681). A colorful and beautifully-shaped shell, the Scotch Bonnet (*Phalium granulatum*) is abundant in North Carolina coastal waters at depths between 500 and 200 feet. The best source of live specimens is from offshore commercial fishermen.



The Eastern Box Turtle – State Reptile

This terrestrial turtle is found throughout the eastern United States, and as far west as Texas. The Eastern Box Turtle's distinctive hinged bottom shell allows it to completely "box" itself inside its shell to protect itself from predators in the wild. Its domed top shell features brightly colored patterns that can vary greatly from one turtle to the next.

The Eastern Box Turtle is an important part of North Carolina's natural heritage that, with a conscientious conservation effort, we will be able to enjoy for many years.

The General Assembly of 1979 designated the Eastern Box Turtle as the official State Reptile for North Carolina. (Session Laws, 1979, c. 154).



Granite – State Rock

The General Assembly of 1979 designated granite as the official State Rock (Session Laws, 1979, c.906). North Carolina has been blessed with an abundant source of “the noble rock,” granite. The largest open-face granite quarry in the world, measuring one mile long and 1,800 feet in width, lies near Mount Airy in Surry County. Granite from this quarry is unblemished, gleaming and has few interfering seams to mar its splendor. The high quality of this granite allows its widespread use as a building material, in both industrial and laboratory applications where super-smooth surfaces are necessary. North Carolina granite has been used for many magnificent edifices of government throughout the United States such as the Wright Brothers Memorial at Kitty Hawk, the gold depository at Fort Knox, the Arlington Memorial Bridge and numerous courthouses throughout the land. Granite is a symbol of strength and steadfastness, qualities characteristic of North Carolinians.



Milk – State Beverage

The General Assembly of 1987 adopted milk as the official State Beverage (Session Laws, 1987, c. 347). In making milk the official state beverage, North Carolina followed many other states, including its immediate neighbor to the north, Virginia, and Wisconsin, the nation's number one dairy state.



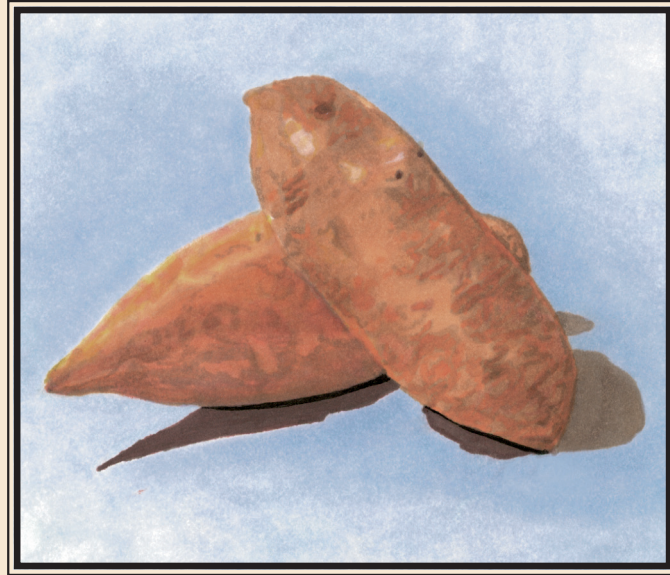
The Shad Boat – State Historic Boat

The General Assembly of 1987 adopted the shad boat as the official State Historic Boat (Session Laws, 1987, c. 366). The shad boat, first developed on Roanoke Island, is known for its unique crafting and high maneuverability. The boat's name is derived from the fish it was used to catch — the shad. Traditional small sailing craft were generally ill-suited to the waterways and weather conditions along the North Carolina coast. The shallow draft of the shad boat, plus its speed and easy handling, made it ideal for use in the state's upper northeast sounds where the water was shallow and the weather changed rapidly. Shad boats were built using native trees such as cypress, juniper, and white cedar, and varied in length between twenty-two and thirty-three feet. Construction was so expensive that production of the shad boat ended in the 1930s, although they were widely used into the 1950s. The boats were so well constructed that some, nearly 100 years old, are still seen around Manteo and Hatteras. The North Carolina Maritime Museum in Beaufort also has a shad boat in its historic boat collection.



The Plott Hound – State Dog

The Plott hound was adopted as our official State Dog on August 12, 1989 (Session Laws of North Carolina, 1989 c. 773; G.S. 145-13). The Plott hound originated in the mountains of North Carolina around 1750 and is the only breed known to have originated in this state. Named for Jonathon Plott, the German immigrant who developed the breed as a wild boar hound, the Plott hound is a legendary hunting dog known as a courageous fighter and tenacious tracker. He is also a gentle and extremely loyal companion to North Carolina's hunters. The Plott hound is very quick, has superior treeing instincts and has always been a favorite of big-game hunters. The Plott hound has a beautiful brindle-colored coat and a spine-tingling, bugle-like call. It is also only one of four breeds known to be of American origin.



The Sweet Potato – State Vegetable

The General Assembly of 1995 designated the sweet potato as the official State Vegetable (Session Laws, 1995, c.521). A staple of the traditional North Carolina diet since pre-Columbian times, the sweet potato is a nutritious source of vitamins A and C, as well as being low in fat. North Carolina is the largest producer of sweet potatoes in the United States. According to the N.C. Department of Agriculture, North Carolina growers raised 12.8 million lbs. of sweet potatoes in 2012, generating \$216 million in cash receipts.

State Name and Nicknames

In 1629, King Charles I of England “erected into a province,” all the land from Albemarle Sound on the north to the St. John’s River on the south, which he directed should be called Carolina. The word Carolina is from the word Carolus, the Latin form of Charles. When Carolina was divided in 1710, the southern part was called South Carolina and the older northern settlement, North Carolina. From this came the nickname the “Old North State.”

During its early history, North Carolina was best-known for products derived from pine trees, particularly tar pitch and turpentine, which were crucial naval supplies in the days of wooden sailing ships. A popular state legend holds that, during the First Battle of Manassas in 1861, a charge by federal troops against part of the Confederate army’s lines broke through a Virginia regiment, causing its soldiers to flee to the rear in panic. The North Carolina regiments holding the line next to the shattered Virginia regiment, however, held their ground, stemming the Union Army’s breakthrough.

After the battle the North Carolinians, who had successfully fought it out alone, were greeted by the chagrined derelict regiment with the question:

“Any more tar down in the Old North State, boys?”

Quick as a flash came the answer:

“No, not a bit, old Jeff’s bought it all up.”

“Is that so? What is he going to do with it?” the Virginians asked.

“He is going to put it on you-uns’ heels to make you stick better in the next fight!”

R.B. Creecy claims that General Robert E. Lee, upon hearing of the incident, said: “God bless the Tar Heel boys,” and that the name stuck to all North Carolina troops serving in the Army of Northern Virginia afterwards. (Adapted from *Grandfather Tales of North Carolina* by R.B. Creecy and *Histories of North Carolina Regiments*, Vol. III, by Walter Clark).

State Colors

The General Assembly of 1945 declared the shades of red and blue found in the North Carolina state flag and the United States flag as the official State Colors. (Session Laws, 1945, c.878).

The Old North State
(Traditional air as sung in 1926)

William Gaston
With Spirit

Collected and arranged
by Mrs. E. E. Randolph

1. Car - o - lin - na! Car - o - li - na! heav - en's bless - ing at -
 2. Tho' she en - vies not oth - ers, their mer - it - ed
 3. Then let all those who love us, love the land that we

tend her. While we live we will cher - ish, pro - tect and de - fend her. Tho' the
 glo - ry. Say whose name stands the fore - most, in lib - er - ty's sto - ry. Tho' to
 live in. As hap - py a re - gion as on this side of hea - ven. Where

scorn - er may sneer at and wit - ling de - fame her Still our hearts swell with
 true to her - self e'er to crouch to op - pres - sion. Who can yield to just
 plen - ty and peace, love and joy smile be - fore us. Raise aloud raise to -

CHORUS

glad - ness when ev - er we name her.
 rule a more loy - al sub - mis - sion. Hur - rah! Hur - rah! the
 geth - er the heart thrill - ing cho - rus.

rit.

Old North State for - ev - er Hur - rah! Hur - rah! the good Old North State.

State Song

The song known as “The Old North State” was adopted as the official song of the State of North Carolina by the General Assembly of 1927. (Public Laws, 1927, c.26; G.S. 149-1).



The Carolina Tartan -- The State Tartan

North Carolina has long celebrated its historical and cultural ties to Scotland. Scots and Scots-Irish immigrants were crucial to the state's population and development both before and after the American Revolution. Much of the state's traditional culture, especially music, has its roots in Scottish culture. The 1991 General Assembly designated the Carolina Tartan as the Official Tartan of North Carolina.



The Colonial Spanish Mustang -- The State Horse

Believed to be descendants of the Colonial Spanish Mustangs brought to the Americas by Spanish explorers dating back to the 16th century, wild horses have roamed North Carolina's Outer Banks for hundreds of years.

Following numerous requests from the students of Shawboro Elementary School in Currituck County, as well as the Corolla Wild Horse Fund, the General Assembly designated the Spanish Colonial Mustang as the Official Horse of the State of North Carolina in 2010 to honor the role they have played in the history and culture of the Outer Banks.



The Scuppernong Grape -- The State Fruit

Plump and full of juice, the scuppernong grape is a North Carolina favorite and is grown in many parts of the state. The 2001 General Assembly designated the scuppernong grape as the Official Fruit of North Carolina.

Gold – State Mineral

The General Assembly in 2011 designated gold as North Carolina's official State Mineral. North Carolina became the home of the nation's first gold rush in the early 1800s. It all started when 12-year-old Conrad Reed found a 17 pound gold nugget. From 1804 to 1828 North Carolina was the source of all domestic gold coined by the U.S. Mint. North Carolina's gold industry declined after the first discovery of gold in California in 1849, but gold will always have an important role in North Carolina's history.



The Eastern Tiger Swallowtail – State Butterfly

The General Assembly designated the Eastern tiger swallowtail as North Carolina's official State butterfly in 2012. Native to North America, the Eastern tiger swallowtail is broadly believed to have first been drawn by artist and cartographer John White. White was also the governor of the Roanoke Island colony now famously known as the "Lost Colony."



The Blueberry -- The State Blue Berry



The Strawberry -- The State Red Berry

The blueberry and the strawberry are common visitors to dinner tables all across North Carolina. The 2001 General Assembly designated the blueberry as the Official State Blue Berry and the strawberry as the Official State Red Berry.



The Carolina Lily -- The State Wildflower

The Carolina Lily (*Lilium michauxii*) grows wild all the way from the North Carolina mountains to coastal swamps. The lily typically blooms here in July and August. Its blooms are orange-red and curled so far back that they often touch or overlap. The 2003 General Assembly designated the Carolina Lilly as the Official State Wildflower.



The Venus Flytrap -- The State Carnivorous Plant

The Venus flytrap (*Dionaea muscipula*) grows wild in swamps in southeastern North Carolina, within a 75-mile radius of Wilmington. The plant developed its ability to trap and digest flies and other small insects to offset the nitrogen-poor soil in which it typically grows. It uses nitrogen gained from its prey to form proteins necessary for it to live. The 2005 General Assembly designated the Venus Flytrap as the Official State Carnivorous Plant.



Seagrove -- The State Birthplace of Traditional Pottery

North Carolina has a long tradition of pottery-making. The Seagrove area of Randolph, Chatham, Lee, Moore and Montgomery counties is renowned for the quality of its pottery. The 2005 General Assembly designated Seagrove as the Official State Birthplace of Traditional Pottery.

Some Other Official North Carolina State Symbols

Oak Ridge Military Academy -- State Military Academy (1991)

Hertford County Watermelon Festival -- Northeastern North Carolina Watermelon Festival (1993)

Fair Bluff Watermelon Festival -- Southeastern North Carolina Watermelon Festival (1993)

Folkmoot USA -- State International Festival (2003)

Ashboro Municipal Airport -- North Carolina Aviation Hall of Fame and the North Carolina Aviation Museum (2003)

Wilmington International Airport -- North Carolina Museum of Aviation (2003)

Clogging -- State Folk Dance (2005)

Shagging -- State Popular Dance (2005)

Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*) -- State Christmas Tree (2005)

Southern Appalachian brook trout (*Salvelinus fontinalis*) -- State Freshwater Trout (2005)

Ayden Collard Festival -- State Collard Festival (2007)



State Capitol

The North Carolina State Capitol is one of the finest and best-preserved examples of Greek Revival architecture incorporated in a civic building. Prior to 1792, North Carolina legislators met in various towns throughout the state, gathering most frequently in Halifax, Hillsborough and New Bern. Meetings were held in local plantation houses, courthouses and even churches. When Raleigh was founded as the permanent seat of North Carolina's state government in 1792, a two-story brick State House was built on Union Square and opened in 1796.

The State House was enlarged between 1820 and 1824 by state architect William Nichols. The project added a third floor, eastern and western wings and a domed rotunda at the building's center. The rotunda housed a statue of President George Washington by sculptor Antonio Canova, acquired by the state in 1821. When the State House burned down on June 21, 1831, the statue was damaged beyond repair.

The General Assembly of 1832-33 ordered that a new Capitol be built as an enlarged version of the old State House. The new Capitol would be a cross-shaped building with a central, domed rotunda. The assembly appropriated \$50,000 for construction and appointed a building committee to manage the project.

The commission first hired William Nichols, Jr., to draft plans for the building. In August of 1833, however, the committee replaced Nichols with distinguished New York architects Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis. Town and Davis altered the earlier design dramatically and developed a plan that gave the Capitol its present appearance.

David Paton (1802-1882), an architect born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and former associate of the noted English architect Sir John Soane, was hired in September, 1834, to supervise construction of the Capitol. Paton replaced Town and Davis as the project architect in early 1835. The Capitol was completed under Paton's direction, except for the exterior stone walls, which were largely in place when he arrived in Raleigh. Paton made several modifications to the Town and Davis plans for the interior. Among the changes were the cantilevered gallery at the second floor level of the rotunda, the groined masonry vaulting of the first floor offices and corridor ceilings, and the interior arrangement of the east and west porticoes.

The new Capitol's cornerstone was set in place on July 4, 1833. After the initial foundation was laid, however, work on the project progressed slowly. The original appropriation for construction was soon exhausted. The next session of the General Assembly authorized an additional appropriation of \$75,000 to continue work on the new Capitol. This phase of the project employed a large number of skilled artisans from Scotland.

Most of the Capitol's architectural details, including the columns, mouldings, ornamental plasterwork and ornamental honeysuckle atop the dome, were carefully patterned after features of Greek temples. Its Doric exterior columns are modeled after those of the Parthenon. The House of Representatives chamber imitates the semi-circular plan of a Greek amphitheater and its architectural ornamentation is Corinthian (Order of the Tower of the Winds). The Senate chamber follows the Ionic Order of the Erechtheum. The only non-classical parts of the building are two large rooms on the third floor which were finished in the Gothic style that was just beginning to gain popularity in American architectural circles.

The ornamental ironwork, plasterwork, chandeliers, hardware and marble mantels of the Capitol came from Philadelphia. Raleigh cabinetmaker William Thompson crafted the desks and chairs in the House and Senate chambers. The Capitol was completed in 1840 at a total cost (including furnishings) of \$532,682.34 — an equivalent of more than three times the state's yearly general revenues at the time.

The Capitol housed all of state government until the late 1880s. Today the building's only official occupants are the governor and the lieutenant governor. The N.C. Supreme Court moved to its own building in 1888 and in 1963, the General Assembly moved into the newly-constructed Legislative Building.

A thorough renovation of the Capitol in 1971 replaced the leaky copper roof, cleaned and sealed the exterior stone and repainted the rotunda. More recent preservation efforts have focused on repairing plasterwork damaged by roof leaks, replacing obsolete wiring and plumbing, installing new, less conspicuous heating and cooling systems in the upper floors, replacing worn carpets and draperies and repainting the rest of the interior.

In 1970 the state acquired a duplicate of the original marble statue of Washington by Canova, which is located in the rotunda of the Capitol. In niches around the rotunda are busts of three North Carolina governors — John M. Morehead, William A. Graham, and Samuel Johnston — and United States Senator Matthew W. Ransom. During late 1988 and early 1989, extensive landscaping and grounds renovations were undertaken to enhance the beauty of the Capitol and to improve its visibility. Memorials to North Carolinians who served in World War II and the Vietnam War were also added in the 1980s and 1990s. In an effort to make the Capitol more accessible to the people of North Carolina, the building has been opened to the public on weekends with guided tours available.

The Capitol continues to play a vital role in the next chapters of our nation's history as the site of North Carolina's Electoral College. By statute, North Carolina electors must meet in the Capitol's old Hall of the House of Representatives following each presidential election to vote on behalf of North Carolina for President and Vice President of the United States.



Legislative Building

In 1959, the General Assembly appropriated funds for the construction of a new legislative building. The new facility was needed to accommodate a growing legislative branch and provide adequate quarters for legislators and staff. The act created a building commission of seven people: two who had served in the N.C. Senate and were appointed by the president of the Senate; two who had served in the N.C. House of Representatives and were appointed by the speaker of the House; and three appointed by the governor.

The commission chose Edward Durell Stone of New York and John S. Holloway and Ralph B. Reeves, Jr., of Raleigh as architectural consultants for the project. After a thorough study, the commission selected a 5.5-acre site one block north of the Capitol for the new building. This site, which encompasses two city blocks, is bounded by Jones, Salisbury, Lane and Wilmington streets. A section of Halifax Street between Jones and Lane was closed to tie the two blocks together. Bids on the new building were received in December, 1960, and construction began in early 1961.

The 1961 General Assembly appropriated an additional one million dollars for furnishings and equipment, bringing the total appropriation for the new Legislative Building to \$5.5 million — \$1.24 for each citizen of North Carolina based on 1960 census figures.

The consulting architects provided this detailed description of the new building:

The State Legislative Building, though not an imitation of historic classical styles, is classical in character. Rising from a 340-foot wide podium of North Carolina granite, the building proper is 242 feet square. The walls and the columns are of Vermont marble, the latter forming a colonnade encompassing the building and reaching 24 feet from the podium to the roof of the second floor.

Inset in the south podium floor, at the main entrance, is a 28 foot diameter terrazzo mosaic of the Great Seal of the State. From the first floor main entrance (on Jones Street) the carpeted 22-foot wide main stair extends directly to the third floor and the public galleries of the Senate and House, the auditorium, the display area, and the roof gardens.

The four garden courts are located at the corners of the building. These courts contain tropical plants and three have pools, fountains and hanging planters. The main floor areas of the courts are located on the first floor and galleries overlook the courts from the mezzanine floor. The skylights, which provide natural lighting, are located within the roof gardens overhead. The courts provide access to committee rooms in the first floor, the legislative chambers in the second floor and to members' offices in both floors.

The Senate and House chambers, each 5,180 square feet in area, occupy the east and west wings of the second floor. Following the traditional relationship of the two chambers in the Capitol, the two spaces are divided by the rotunda; and when the main brass doors are open, the two presiding officers face one another. Each pair of brass doors weighs 1,500 pounds.

The five pyramidal roofs covering the Senate and House chambers, the auditorium, the main stair, and the rotunda are sheathed with copper, as is the Capitol. The pyramidal shapes of the roofs are visible in the pointed ceilings inside. The structural ribs form a coffered ceiling; and inside the coffered patterns are concentric patterns outlined in gold. In each chamber, the distance from the floor to the peak of the ceiling is 45 feet.

Chandeliers in the chambers and the main stair are 8 feet in diameter and weigh 625 pounds each. The 12-foot diameter chandelier of the rotunda, like the others, is of brass, but its weight is 750 pounds.

Because of the interior climate, the garden courts and rotunda have tropical plants and trees. Outside, however, the shrubs and trees are of an indigenous type.

Among the trees on the grounds and on the roof areas are sugar maples, dogwoods, crabapples, magnolias, crepe myrtles and pines.

Throughout the building, the same color scheme is maintained: walnut, accented with white, gold and red, as well as green foliage. In general, all wood is American walnut, metal is brass or similar material, carpets are red and upholstery is gold or black.

The enclosed area consists of 206,000 square feet of floor area with a volume of 3,210,000 cubic feet. Heating equipment provides over 7,000,000 B.T.U.s per hour; the cooling equipment has a capacity of 620 tons. For lighting, motors and other electrical equipment, the building has a connected service load of over 2,000,000 watts.

Renovations to the Legislative Building in the 1980s created more office space and expanded the meeting room facilities to meet the needs of the General Assembly's various committees. The Legislative Office Building opened across Jones Street from the Legislative Building in 1982. Nearly half of the members of each house moved to new offices in the building, as well as several of the support divisions of Legislative Services.

The area around the Legislative Building has changed dramatically since it opened in the 1960s. The west side of the building now opens onto a majestic plaza several blocks long and ringed by government office buildings constructed in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s. The east side of the building now faces the North Carolina Museum of History and the North Carolina Museum of Natural History, which opened in April, 1999.



Executive Mansion

North Carolina has not always provided an official home for its governors and their families. Prior to 1770, the governor lived wherever he chose at his own expense. It was not until 1767 that the General Assembly authorized the construction of the first permanent official residence. Designed by English architect John Hawks and built between 1767 and 1770, Tryon Palace in New Bern, named for Royal Governor William Tryon, became one of the most admired public structures in North America. Tryon Palace, however, served as a formal gubernatorial residence for only a short time. Abandoned by Tryon when the Revolution erupted, the palace was adopted as the new state's capitol. A fire in 1798 leveled the entire structure except for the west wing. The present structure, a popular historic attraction in its own right, is largely a reconstruction based on Hawks' original plans, as well as archaeological research.

Shortly after Raleigh was selected as the permanent seat of state government in 1792, the legislature enacted a law requiring the governor to reside there. Samuel Ashe of New Hanover County, elected in 1794, was the first governor to come under this law.

The General Assembly took steps to provide a suitable dwelling for the state's chief executive. It instructed the state treasurer to purchase or lease a house. In 1797, a plain,

two-story frame building painted white and an office for the governor were erected on Lot 131, the southwest corner of Fayetteville and Hargett Streets. The house proved hopelessly inadequate. In an 1810 letter, Governor Benjamin Smith grumbled that the structure was “in such order that it is agreed by all who view it, not to be fit for the family of a decent tradesman, and certainly none could be satisfied; even if safe in it...”

To remedy this situation, the General Assembly of 1813 appointed a committee to provide better facilities. The committee members selected a site at the foot of Fayetteville Street facing the old State House. An elaborate brick structure with white-columned porticoes was completed in 1816 and Governor William Miller became the first occupant of the Governor's Palace.

Twenty succeeding governors resided in the “Palace,” as it came to be cynically termed. Many of the state's most notable historical events took place there. General Lafayette was an overnight guest in 1825. Several sessions of the General Assembly were held in the building following the burning of the State House in 1831.

Zebulon Baird Vance was the last governor to occupy the structure, abandoning it at the close of the Civil War to avoid capture by the Union Army. General William T. Sherman and his staff were quartered in the palace during the spring of 1865.

Governor Vance was re-elected to office in 1877. In 1879, a commission appointed two years earlier by the General Assembly to investigate the possibilities of providing a new suitable residence for North Carolina's governors issued a report of its findings. Proceeds from the sales of unused state lands in the Raleigh area were earmarked for construction of a house and outbuildings suitable for the governor.

The General Assembly finally approved the decision to build the present Executive Mansion in 1883, thanks to the efforts and perseverance of Governor Thomas J. Jarvis (1879-1885). The legislature authorized construction of a house on Burke Square, provided some furnishings and required the governor to occupy it upon its completion. The assembly directed the governor to use convict labor and building materials “manufactured or prepared, either in whole or in part” at the penitentiary whenever feasible.

David Paton, who had supervised the completion of the state capitol nearly half a century earlier, was initially recommended as the project's architect. Because of the architect's advanced age, however, he was passed over for the assignment. The N.C. Council of State selected Samuel Sloan of Philadelphia and his assistant, Gustavus Adolphus Bauer, as project architects. Sloan delivered his proposed designs to the committee personally when he arrived in Raleigh on April 28, 1883. The plans called for a three-story, Queen Anne-style building. On May 7, the committee accepted Sloan's designs with minor modifications.

The mansion was finished in late 1890, but Governor Daniel Fowle (1889-1891) did not move in until early January, 1891. He was particularly anxious to occupy the house in view of earlier attempts to abandon it as a residence for the governor. Fowle brought his own furniture to the mansion, setting a precedent followed for many years before the house was adequately furnished. Much of the money originally set aside to furnish the mansion had been siphoned off to cover mounting construction costs.

As preparations were made for Governor Angus W. McLean's residence in the mansion (1925-1929), previous renovations were pronounced inadequate. Sentiment for removing the house and landscaping Burke Square as a public park was once again aroused. Secretary of State W. N. Everett halted the movement. He had made his own examination and reported that major repairs were needed to provide the governor with a comfortable dwelling. Everett suggested a sum of \$50,000 for repairs and new furnishings. Although this action was taken without McLean's knowledge, upon learning of it, he soon became active in seeking the appropriation.

Their case was strengthened by a State Board of Health inspection report issued in February, 1925, shortly after McLean's inauguration. The inspection report was startling, noting that the management of a hotel receiving such a bad rating would be subject to criminal indictment. The principal deductions in scoring were for uncleanliness. Dust pervaded the mansion, covering the woodwork, filming the furniture and stifling the air. Governor Fowle's contemporaries had described clouds of dust billowing up from the floor with every footstep. The first floor walls and the first floor walls and floors were unsound and the ornate plasterwork was disintegrating in some areas. The upstairs floors, composed of uneven, shoddy boards, had half-inch cracks.

The architectural firm of Atwood and Nash carried out extensive renovations to the mansion. Their work vastly improved the mansion, saving it from further deterioration and correcting many of the defects caused by the use of prison labor and materials in the original construction. A newspaper account, lauding Governor McLean's accomplishments, claimed that renovating a building considered eligible for demolition had saved the state more than a third of a million dollars.

Later administrations made further improvements to the mansion. An elevator was installed, air conditioning units were placed in some rooms and a bomb shelter was added during Governor Luther H. Hodges' tenure (1954-1961). Mrs. Terry Sanford added many antique furnishings during her husband's term of office (1961-1965).

In May, 1973, the General Assembly ordered another round of repairs. This renovation was the most extensive in the history of the Executive Mansion. The General Assemblies of 1973 and 1975 appropriated \$845,000 to complete the project. Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr., and his family moved out of the mansion to a temporary home in the Foxcroft subdivision of Raleigh for eight months while interior renovations were carried out by F. Carter Williams, a local architectural firm. Today, North Carolina's Executive Mansion draws tens of thousands of visitors each year.